

Patent claims

1. A method for communication and/or transmission of information (8)
5 between automation devices (1_{1..n}) via a data transmission system (2),
- in which each participating automation device (1_i) sends and/or receives requests and/or replies, and
 - in which the communication and/or transmission of information (8)
10 takes place directly between the automation devices (1_{1..n}),
characterized in that
the automation devices (1_{1..n}) send an address (7) directly to the
automation device (1_i) which submits the request (6).
2. The method according to Claim 1,
15 characterized in that
the communication between the automation devices (1) takes place in
the form of peer-to-peer communication.
3. The method according to Claim 1 or 2,
20 characterized in that
the communication and/or transmission of information takes place via
an Intranet and/or Internet (3).
4. The method according to one of the Claims 1 to 3,
25 characterized in that
communication takes place via a basic service of an operating
system.
5. The method according to one of the Claims 1 to 4,
30 characterized in that
each automation device (1_i) sends a request (6) via the data
transmission system (2) to all other automation devices (1_{1..n}) of
which it has knowledge.

6. The method according to one of the Claims 1 to 5,
characterized in that

5 all automation devices (1_{1..m}) forward a request (6), which arrives
via the sending and/or receiving means (4), to all other automation
devices which it knows (1_{m+1..n}), which have not yet received the
request (6).

10 7. The method according to one of the Claims 1 to 6,
characterized in that
the automation devices (1_{1..n}) directly collect information (8) from
automation devices (1_{1..n}) which make information (8) available at the
address (7) which has been sent.

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8. The method according to one of the Claims 1 to 7,
characterized in that
the forwarding of the request (7) through the automation devices
(1_{1..n}) is canceled on the basis of a time limit.

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9. The method according to one of the Claims 1 to 8,
characterized in that
the addresses (7) of the participating automation devices (1_{1..n}) are
managed by a device (5) which is connected to the data transmission
25 system (2).

10. An automation device (1_i) for communication with and/or
transmission of information (8) to and from further automation
devices (1_{1..n}) via a data transmission system (2),

30 • wherein the automation device (1_i) has means (4) for sending
and/or receiving requests and/or replies, and
• wherein the means (4) are used for direct communication and/or
transmission of information (8) between the automation devices
(1_{1..n}),

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characterized in that
the automation device (1_i) is used for directly sending an address
(7) to an automation device (1_{1..n}) which submits a request (6).

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11. The automation device according to Claim 10,
characterized in that
the means (4) are used for peer-to-peer communication between the
automation devices (1).

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12. The automation device according to Claims 10 or 11,
characterized in that
the means (4) for sending and/or receiving are developed as a basic
service of an operating system for communication.

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13. The automation device according to Claims 10 to 12,
characterized in that
the automation device (1_i) is used for sending a request (6) via the
data transmission system (2) to all other automation devices (1_{1..n})
of which it has knowledge.

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14. The automation device according to one of the Claims 10 to 13,
characterized in that
the automation device (1_i) is used for forwarding a request (6),
which arrives via the sending and/or receiving means (4), to all
other automation devices which it knows (1_{1..n}), which have not yet
received the request (6).

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15. The automation device according to one of the Claims 10 to 14,
characterized in that
the means (4) for sending and/or receiving on the automation devices
(1_i) are used for the direct collection of information (8) from
automation devices (1_{1..n}) which make information (8) available at the
address (7) which has been sent.

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16. The automation device according to one of the Claims 10 to 15,
characterized in that

5 the request (7) has means for canceling its forwarding through the
automation devices (1_{1..n}) on the basis of a time limit.

17. An automation system having at least one automation device
according to one of the Claims 10 to 16.

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18. The automation system according to Claim 17,
characterized in that
the data transmission system (2) is developed as an Intranet and/or
Internet (3).

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19. The automation system according to Claim 17 or 18,
characterized in that
a device (5) which is connected to the data transmission system (2)
is used for managing the addresses (7) of the participating

20 automation devices (1_{1..n}).